



ORDINARY TIME | NOVEMBER 15, 2020

REFLECTIONS

“See that I am God. See that I am in everything. See that I do everything. See that I have never stopped ordering my works, nor ever shall, eternally. See that I lead everything on to the conclusion I ordained for it before time began, by the same power, wisdom and love with which I made it. How can anything be amiss?”

JULIAN OF NORWICH | *REVELATIONS OF DIVINE LOVE*

“[Joseph] does not imply God planned for the brothers to do what they did...What the story more likely illustrates is that God can take a negative human intention and turn it into something that can have a positive effect. When people talk about God’s doing that in their lives, they often refer to God’s bringing good in a person’s life out of a wrong done to one person or out of something regrettable that happens. Joseph’s point is a bolder one. Through something wrong done to him God did something good for other people. The supreme example is the story of the wrong done to Jesus.”

JOHN GOLDINGAY | *GENESIS FOR EVERYONE*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

**Together Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.**

Leader Let’s praise the One who saves his people!

Together Let us praise the One who redeems and gives his people a future! — from Ps. 103:1-5; Jer. 29:11

SONG OF PRAISE

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES / FROM Ps. 24; MUSIC: GEORGE WEISSEL

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!

2. A helper just, He comes to thee;
his chariot is humility;
his kingly crown is holiness;
his scepter, kindness in distress!

3. O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes,
to whom this King in triumph comes!

4. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart!
The Word made flesh descends to dwell
with joy for you who His mercies tell.

5. So come, my Lord, and enter in,
let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on
until Thy glorious victories won!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Together

Eternal God, you are the power behind all things:
you cause the sun to shine, the rain to fall, and the earth to be fruitful.
Eternal God, you are the power behind all hearts and minds:
behind the ability to think and feel; behind all understanding of the truth.
Eternal God, you are the power behind the cross of Christ:
behind the weakness, the torture, and the death; behind resurrection and unconquerable love.
Eternal God, you are the power working all things for the good of those who love you
and have been called according to your purposes.
Eternal God, we worship and adore you. **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

PROVIDE FOR ME / RYAN DELMORE

Maker of the heavens
Maker of the earth
I look up to the mountains
Where does my help come from?
It comes from You (3x)
My strength and my shield

You will save me in times of trouble
You will hold me in times of doubt
You will provide for me
Lover of my soul
You will provide for me

GREAT ARE YOU LORD / *ALL SONS & DAUGHTERS*

1. You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
Great are You, Lord

Chorus

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

2. You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
Great are You, Lord

Bridge

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together

Most gracious and most merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another that time after time
we enter your presence with countless prayers
but with hearts that are closed to your grace.
We lift our hands to you in praise,
but keep the same hands clenched in anger towards our neighbor.
We rehearse your commandments, but call evil good and good evil
and condone injustice in our thoughts, words, and deeds.
We confess you are good, but doubt your faithfulness
to redeem, restore, and bring beauty out of the ashes of our lives.
We pray, Lord, that you forgive our lack of faith and pardon us.
Grant us the healing and faith that comes from your presence
and the cleansing of your all-powerful Word,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE & ASSURANCE

OH THOU IN WHOSE PRESENCE / *JOSEPH SWAIN*

1. O Thou, in whose presence my soul takes delight,
on whom in affliction I call,
my comfort by day and my song in the night,
my hope, my salvation, my all.
2. Where dost Thou, dear Shepherd,
resort with Thy sheep?
to feed them in pastures of love?
Say, why in the valley of death should I weep,
or alone in this wilderness rove?
3. O why should I wander, an alien from Thee,
or cry in the desert for bread?
Thy foes will rejoice when my sorrows they see,
and smile at the tears I have shed.
4. He looks, and ten thousands of angels rejoice,
and myriads wait for His word;
He speaks and eternity, filled with His voice,
re-echoes the praise of the Lord.
5. Dear Shepherd, I hear and will follow Thy call;
I know the sweet sound of Thy voice;
restore and defend me, for Thou art my all,
and in Thee I will ever rejoice.

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

- Leader "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." — *from Ps.103:8,11-12*
- All Thanks be to God!**
- Leader May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
- All And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Continue passing the peace to one another during announcements.

** Check our website for the latest updates and ways to invest in the life of our church and city.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

If you're accustomed to giving during worship on Sunday mornings, please consider giving online and setting up a recurring or one-time gift through the Subsplash platform. (Subsplash has one of the lowest transaction fees and reduces our fees the more people give online.) To give online, visit <https://gracepasadena.org/give>. Questions? Email info@gracepasadena.org.

THE MORNING LESSON – GENESIS 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. [ESV]

THE SERMON – BRANNIN PITRE

Sermon Series: "Genesis: We Begin..."
Sermon Title: "We Begin With God's Good"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH & PRAYERS OF RESPONSE

- Leader In response to the Good News of Jesus Christ, let us affirm our faith. Brothers and sisters, what do you understand by the providence of God?
- All **God's providence is his almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with his hand, he still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.**
- Leader What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by his providence?
- All **We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature shall separate us from his love; for all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they cannot so much as move.**
- Leader What do we pray when for when we pray, "And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us?"
- All **We pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.**
- Leader In confidence of God's kindness, let us pray for ourselves, city and world. (Take a few moments to name your desires; share them with others or write them down. After a few moments, the leader will end with a prayer.)
- (Catechism questions are from the Heidelberg Catechism, questions 27 & 28, and the Westminster Shorter Catechism, question 105.)*

A COMMUNION PRAYER

- Together Jesus Christ, you promise to meet us and feed us whenever we gather and eat from your table. Since we cannot break bread with you and one another, we ask that you would renew your presence in us and strengthen us spiritually. We long to feast with you and our church family. We long to welcome others into your presence and to experience your gracious hospitality together. In your mercy, make it so quickly. In your name, we pray. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONGS

THE LORD'S PRAYER / MUSIC: RACHEL & BERNARD CHADWICK

Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us all our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
for thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE / FRANCES HAVERGAL

1. Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, for Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for Thee,
swift and beautiful for Thee.
3. Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from Thee,
filled with messages from Thee
4. Take my will and make it Thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
it shall be Thy royal throne,
it shall be Thy royal throne.
5. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for Thee,
ever, only, all for Thee,

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader In your journeys to and fro God direct you;
in your happiness and pleasure God bless you;
in distress, anxiety, or trouble God sustain you;
in peril and in danger
God protect you and assure you
of his good intentions for you and the world.
The grace of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—
be with you all, now and always. — based on Gen. 50:20

All **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

ORDINARY TIME - ENDING 11/28

As Phillip Reinders says in *Seeking God's Face*:

"With all the big holidays and celebrations over, Ordinary Time offers us the space to find our place in God's story. We've celebrated and taken in the momentous life of Jesus; now we need a long stretch of days to absorb and assimilate it. In Ordinary Time, we fully take in the gospel, allowing it to take shape in our daily living, making connections between Jesus' story and our lives. 'Ordinary' doesn't mean boring or second-rate but simply 'everyday.' The Christian faith is not an otherworldly faith; it's about this creation, your life, these days. Ordinary Time gives us the space to consider all the implications of God's salvation in Jesus Christ for our day by day, week-in, week-out lives. As such, it is a time of listening to the story of God's people."

GIVING & BUDGET

	<u>JAN-OCT</u>	<u>OCT 2020</u>	<u>NOV¹</u>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$360,000	\$27,360	\$17,380
BUDGETED GIVING _____	\$360,652	\$36,000	\$36,000
DIFFERENCE _____	+652	-8,371	-18,620

¹as of 11/13/2020; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors